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The amazing Mrs. Benjamin

Mrs. Sarah Benjamin was born in Goshen, N.Y., November 17, 1745 and died at Pleasant Mount, Pa., in the year 1859, aged over 113 years. On account of the remarkable age to which she lived and the stirring scenes in which a part of her youth was spent, she deserves more than passing notice.

Her maiden name was Sarah Matthews and she was married three times. Her first husband, William Reade, was a soldier in the Revolution and died from a wound which he received while serving in Virginia.

Her second husband, Aaron Osborne, also of Goshen, N.Y., was a soldier in that same war and was accompanied part of his service by his wife. Once, when he was standing guard, she took a gun and overcoat and stood sentinel at his post, that he might help load the heavy artillery into boats. Washington, inspecting the outposts, observed her.

"Who placed you here?" he asked. She promptly replied in her characteristic way:

"Them that had a right to, Sir."

He grasped the situation and passed on.

She was at the Siege of Yorktown, passing to and fro like an angel of mercy, carrying water to the thirsty and relieving the suffering.

While passing where bullets of the enemy were flying she again met Washington. He said:

"Young woman, are you not afraid of the bullets?" She promptly and pleasantly replied: "The bullets will never cheat the gallows!"

The general smiled and left.

Some time after the war her second husband died and she was married to number three, John Benjamin, who came with her to Pleasant Mount in 1822 and who died in 1926. She was the mother of five children, all of whom pre-deceased her.

Her descendants are living in various parts of the country.

She was amply pensioned by the government; but nevertheless she was most industrious, carding, spinning and making the finest of triple-threaded yarn and knitting it into hose. Some of her work was on exhibition at a World's Fair in New York. A specimen of her work done when she had passed the century mark was on exhibition at the Crystal Palace in London.

She is said to have possessed many amiable traits of character and to have been especially brilliant as a conversationist. She was noted for her untiring industry, doing her 'day's work' at spinning even after her locks had been silvered by the frosts of one hundred and ten winters.

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